



Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 20, 2007

COTTON PLANTING ROLLS ON

Tennessee farmers made excellent progress planting cotton last week with over ninety percent of the State’s acreage now in the ground, a pace over a week ahead of normal. Producers were able to work almost the entire week without being hampered by showers. Many areas, however, are beginning to need a general rain. Planting of the 2007 corn crop is essentially over, except for some spot planting. By week’s end, nearly the entire corn crop had emerged and was rated in mostly good-to-fair condition. Soybean planting continued its rapid progress with nearly half of the acreage already planted compared to just 33 percent a year earlier. About a third of the wheat crop was turning color, slightly ahead of normal. The first cutting of hay neared the halfway point with reports of diminished yields so far. Tobacco growers continued their transplanting efforts and more than doubled the progress of a week ago. Other farm activities included side-dressing corn and post-emergence herbicide applications.

There were 6 days considered suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 10 percent very short, 42 percent short, 47 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 15 percent very short, 43 percent short, and 42 percent adequate. Temperatures last week averaged 3 to 4 degrees below normal across the state. Rainfall was also below normal for the entire state.

CROP PROGRESS: Through May 20, 2007					CONDITION: On May 18, 2007					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2006	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Corn – Emerged	98	92	91	91	Corn	0	3	26	53	18
Cotton – Planted	92	61	59	62	Hay	10	25	41	23	1
Hay – First Cutting	49	30	22	30	Pastures	6	21	38	32	3
Tobacco – Transplanted	35	17	22	28	Winter Wheat	30	28	31	11	0
Soybeans – Planted	48	28	33	30						
Soybeans – Emerged	22	11	17	14						
Winter Wheat – Turning Color	35	n/a	44	32						

n/a = not available

County Agent Comments

“Mid-week showers allowed soybean planting to advance in the county. However, there are still dry areas. Cotton has faced very little adversity and the older crop is beginning to shine across the fields. Corn is picking up fertilizer and beginning to grow. With all that has happened since Easter, we still have good potential if moisture will continue to be available.”

Jerry Parker, Lauderdale County

“After the damage to wheat and corn crops, we needed the cotton crop to go in as smoothly as possible. It has, and growing conditions have been ideal to get good stands with very little disease pressure. We seem to get just enough rain to get us by for a few days, but we are behind for the year. Crop demand for water will soon increase, and if we don’t receive large amounts of rainfall, all of our crops will suffer.”

Tracey Sullivan, Haywood County

“Recent rains have helped pasture and hay conditions. First reports of grass hay yields are about 2/3 of normal spring harvest. Wheat crop that survived has improved; however, many fields scouted have powdery mildew present. Tobacco transplant production has had very few problems this spring. A few cases of bacterial stalk rot and collar rot seen in the past week.”

Paul Hart, Robertson County

“We are dry in 90% of the county, and it’s beginning to affect corn. Our hay crop is the worst I’ve seen in 30 years. Pastures are getting critical, and farmers are talking about selling cows.”

Larry Moorehead, Moore County

“Good hay weather, but lack of rain is hurting everyone else. Nurserymen busy with insurance adjustors due to April freeze. Soybeans are being planted and some early corn being sprayed. Some parts of the county got rain last weekend, but we need a good general rain badly.”

J. Dale Beaty, Warren County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: May 20, 2007 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending May 20, 2007				Current Week 05/20/07	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
Ames_Plantation	87	42	64	-5	0.13	1	13.47	-9.42	5.83	-3.29
Tri-City_RGNL_A	81	38	60	-5	0.23	2	8.92	-7.25	3.40	-2.40
Brownsville_TN	87	45	66	-4	0.25	1	12.11	-10.79	4.32	-4.78
Chattanooga/Lov	85	45	67	-1	0.04	1	12.78	-10.16	5.53	-1.68
Clarksville_Sew	88	44	64	-3	1.29	1	15.51	-5.40	6.39	-0.87
Cookeville	83	39	60	-6	0.24	2	15.54	-7.71	5.64	-2.58
Covington	86	43	64	-6	0.31	1	14.69	-8.14	5.91	-3.24
Crossville_AP	79	37	60	-4	0.22	2	15.93	-7.30	8.91	0.70
Dayton	81	40	63	-4	0.02	1	11.08	-12.94	4.45	-3.55
Dickson_AG	85	39	63	-5	0.93	1	15.37	-7.06	5.78	-2.64
Dover_1W	86	42	63	-4	1.50	1	17.2	-4.69	6.82	-1.17
Dyersburg	90	45	66	-4	0.30	1	13.41	-7.30	4.33	-3.56
Erwin_1W	82	37	60	-2	0.16	1	9.77	-8.70	4.15	-2.81
Huntingdon_Wate	87	42	63	-5	0.40	1	12.04	-9.76	3.63	-4.41
Jackson_Exp_Stn	87	41	65	-4	0.17	1	12.77	-9.23	4.09	-4.63
Kingston_AG	81	43	62	-3	0.14	1	15.68	-8.44	7.48	-0.56
Knoxville_AP	83	42	64	-2	0.23	1	13.57	-6.13	6.53	0.15
Lewisburg	84	36	61	-6	0.23	2	13.16	-9.84	5.53	-2.89
Lexington_TN	86	43	64	-4	1.11	1	15.55	-5.65	5.96	-2.05
Linden	85	38	62	-5	0.44	2	15.04	-8.44	5.88	-2.61
Martin	86	42	64	-4	0.61	1	15.82	-5.62	4.85	-3.35
Mc_Minnville_Tn	83	43	64	-3	0.15	1	11.24	-10.96	4.22	-3.56
Memphis_AG	89	44	66	-6	0.34	1	13.07	-9.26	5.10	-3.74
Milan	89	38	63	-5	0.54	1	13.82	-8.26	5.58	-2.88
Murfreesboro_5N	83	38	61	-6	0.19	2	16.4	-5.40	5.52	-2.50
Nashville_Metro	83	46	65	-4	0.49	2	13.62	-6.20	6.05	-1.53
Newcomb	83	36	59	-3	0.10	1	15.26	-6.50	7.25	-0.64
Oneida	81	38	60	-3	0.21	1	13.42	-8.34	5.92	-1.97
Portland_TN	84	41	61	-5	0.46	2	15.45	-5.55	6.09	-1.61
Pulaski_Water_P	84	40	63	-6	0.31	2	14.11	-9.08	5.07	-2.73
Savannah_6SW	87	44	66	-4	0.12	1	13.57	-11.16	4.91	-4.36
Sparta_TN	83	38	63	-3	0.16	1	14.93	-7.77	6.54	-1.59
Springfield	85	41	59	-7	0.76	2	16.33	-4.01	7.44	-0.03
Springhill	85	41	62	-3	0.29	2	14.05	-9.31	4.55	-4.20
Union_City	86	42	64	-4	0.22	1	14.8	-6.39	4.59	-3.42
Waynesboro_TN	85	42	64	-2	0.33	2	12.9	-11.96	4.71	-4.38

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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